

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/075,451	MERCIER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Joseph C. Merek	3727

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the after final amendment filed 3/04/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,5,8-13,17-19 and 21-23.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. 3182004.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

The 112 first paragraph and 112 second paragraph rejections made in the previous office action have been withdrawn. The drawing objection made in the previous office action has been withdrawn. The original disclosure supports there being inner and outer sets of attachment projections on the outer surface of the lid. Original Figure 5 shows the two sets on the inner surface of the lid. There is no need for a showing of the two sets on the outer surface of the lid.

An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on March 18, 2004, Adam Neff requested an extension of time for the second MONTH(S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 15-0461 the required fee of \$ 155.00 for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 24 has been canceled.

In the Specification:

Page 2, line 15, --and-- has been inserted after "invention with a lid attached to the bottom surface thereof in a nested state ;"

Page 2, line 17, ";" and" has been replaced with --.--.

Page 2, line 18, "Fig. 7 shows a bottom plan view of the container of Fig. 5." has been deleted.

Page 4, lines 12-15, "In Fig. 5, the outer sets of projections are labeled 110a, 210a, and 212a, and the inner sets are labeled 110b, 210b, and 212b. Fig. 7 is a bottom plan view of the container 100, showing the two sets of attachment projections 110a and 110b." has been deleted.

In the drawings:

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

Applicant will submit a new set of drawings reflecting the following:

The new drawings will include corrected Figs. 1-4 and 6 as submitted on March 4, 2004.

The new drawings will include Fig. 5 shown as originally filed on February 15 2002.

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

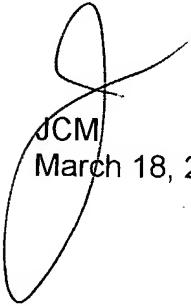
The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not teach the claimed combination where the container lid has the inner and outer sets of projections that make up the third attachment mechanism where the lid is attachable to the container in an inverted state via engagement of the first attachment projections engage respective third attachment projections. De 1811773 teaches that the lid has one attachment projection but does not teach the inner and outer sets for attaching the lid to the container. Mason, Jr. teaches having inner and outer sets of projections on the lid for preventing the container from sliding off the inverted lid as seen in Figs. 6 and 7. To combine the teachings of Mason and DE 1811773 and Mason, Jr. would have required hindsight.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph C. Merek whose telephone number is (703) 305-0644. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee Young can be reached on (703) 308-2572. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.


JCM
March 18, 2004


Lee Young
3727
LEE YOUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700